

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 271818Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4310

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05840

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR, GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, UR

SUBJECT: BELGIAN KING AND PRIME MINISTER VISIT USSR

SUMMARY. KING BAUDOUIN, ACCOMPANIED BY QUEEN, PRIME MINISTER  
AND FOREIGN MINISTER, ARRIVED IN MOSCOW JUNE 23 FOR HIS FIRST  
VISIT TO SOVIET UNION. MOSCOW PHASE OF TRIP WAS, FROM BELGIAN  
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POINT OF VIEW, A NET LOSS POLITICALLY. KING DELIVERED A COURAGEOUS

SPEECH FIRMLY ASSERTING BASES OF BELGIAN NATIONAL POLICY, SPECIFICALLY COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN UNION AND ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. ROYAL VISIT WAS OCCASION ALSO FOR SIGNATURE OF SERIES OF ROUTINE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND ISSUANCE OF A JOINT DECLARATION AND COMMUNIQUE CONVENTIONAL IN CONTENT. HOWEVER, SOVIET LEADERS SNUBBED PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AND ATTACKED BELGIAN ATTITUDES HE CURRENTLY EXPRESSES. BREZHNEV REFUSED TO SEE KING OR TINDEMANS. KOSYGIN READ BELGIANS A LECTURE ON PRESUMPTIONS OF SMALL VASSAL POWERS. SOVIETS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO STAMPEDE BELGIANS INTO ENDORSING SOVIET POSITION ON A JULY CSCE SUMMIT. TINDEMANS RETURNED TO BRUSSELS REPORTEDLY FEELING IT WAS A BAD WEEK FOR BELGIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AND FOR HIM PERSONALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. KING BAUDOUIN ACCOMPANIED BY QUEEN, PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE WENT TO USSR JUNE 23 ON TWO PART VISIT. KING'S VISIT IS LARGELY PROTOCOLARY. AGAINST ADVICE OF FOREIGN MINISTER PRIME MINISTER RELUCTANTLY ACCOMPANIED KING AT KING'S INSISTANCE TO ADD SUBSTANCE TO VISIT. AFTER INITIAL TALKS IN MOSCOW, ROYAL COUPLE IS TOURING USSR WHILE TINDEMANS AND VAN ELSLANDE BROKE OFF TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS. RECEPTION IN MOSCOW AS HEAVILY REPORTED IN BELGIAN PRESS WAS CORRECT BUT "LACKED WARMTH." SOVIET TREATMENT OF TINDEMANS AND VAN ELSLANDE WAS COOL.

2. BELGIANS WERE MET BY PODGORNYY, KOSYGIN, MAZUROV AND GROMYKO. BREZHNEV DID NOT APPEAR AND DID NOT RECEIVE TINDEMANS OR KING. KOSYGIN LEFT MOSCOW FOR BUDAPEST PRIOR TO START OF BELGIAN-SOVIET POLITICAL LEVEL TALKS; MAZUROV WAS ALSO POINTEDLY ABSENT FROM TALKS.

3. IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL OF BELGIAN PARTY, SOVIETS PRESSURED THEM TO AGREE TO COMMUNIQUE ON FIRST EVENING URGING RAPID CONCLUSION OF CSCE STAGE III. BELGIANS REFUSED ON GROUNDS (A) EC-9 MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 24 TO CONSIDER ISSUE; (B) BELGIANS OBJECTED TO SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE"; AND (C) BELGIANS DID NOT WANT TO STEAL THUNDER FROM NORMAL FINAL COMMUNIQUE BY PUBLISHING PRELIMINARY COMMUNIQUE.

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4. KING DELIVERED SPEECH AT GALA DINNER JUNE 23, WHICH WAS NOTEWORTHY BOTH FOR UNUSUAL TEXT AND FOR PLACE OF DELIVERY. SUMMARY IN SEPTEL; FULL FRENCH TEXT BY AIRGRAM.

5. IN CONTINUED BELGO-SOVIET TALKS, SOVIETS CRITICIZED COMMON MARKET AS A FUNDAMENTAL OBSTACLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE BETWEEN SOVIET BLOC AND EC COUNTRIES. TINDEMANS' REBUTTED CHARGE WITH LITTLE EFFECT. SOVIETS SPEAKING TO BELGIAN PUBLIC

(BELGIAN COMMUNIST PRESS HAS PICKED UP THEME) IMPLIED THAT BELGIUM WAS NOT A FREE AGENT DUE NATO AND EC COMMITMENTS AND THAT THEREFORE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE BELGIAN PEOPLE.

6. AT CONCLUSION OF POLITICAL TALKS AND AFTER HARD BARGAINING BELGIANS AGREED JUNE 25 TO (A) JOINT BELGO-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE AND (B) COMMON BELGO-SOVIET DECLARATION (RENCH TEXTS FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM). COMMUNIQUE NOTED SIGNATURE FOR FOUR AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING VISIT COVERING COOPERATION ON (A) ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS; (B) A PROTOCOL ON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION ON A CONSULAR CONVENTION; (C) TOURISM; AND (D) AN ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT ON AERIAL NAVIGATION. IT STRESSED IMPORTANCE BOTH GAVE TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF CSCE AND NOTED THAT, AS BULK OF WORK ON CSCE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, THAT THEY CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT TO HOLD INFAL STAGE ASAP AT AS HIGH LEVEL AS POSSIBLE, AND HOPED THAT STAGE III COULD STILL BEGIN IN HELSINKI IN JULY. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO STRIVE FOR POLITICAL DETENTE IN EUROPE ACCOMPANIED BY MEASURES ON THE MILITARY SIDE, AND AGREED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMS AND ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF EACH SIDE MAINTAINING THE SAME DEGREE OF SECURITY. DECLARATION IS ANODYNE DOCUMENT THAT CLOSELY PARALLELS COMMUNIQUE AND REPEATS IN DIFFERENT FORMAT MUCH OF SAME LANGUAGE.

COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS RETURNED FROM MOSCOW LICKING HIS WOUNDS AND WISHING HE HAD TAKEN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ADVICE NOT TO GO AT ALL. WELL-PUBLICIZED SERIES OF SNUBS HAVE EMBARRASSED TINDEMANS AND DONE HIM POTENTIAL POLITICAL DAMAGE AT HOME. SOVIET VIEW OF THE EVENT IS PROBABLY ACCURATELY EXPRESSED IN A SPECIAL REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN TODAY'S RED FLAG, THE BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER: "BELGIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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DIPLOMACY IS TIMOROUS AND SHRINKS VISIBLY FROM DEPARTING FROM THE LINES OF CONDUCT LAID DOWN BY THE DIRECTING CIRCLES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE . . ." RED FLAG'S CORRESPONDENT SAID, "M. TINDEMANS REMAINS AT ALL COSTS FAITHFUL TO HIS IMAGE OF 'GOOD STUDENT', ATLANTIC OR EUROPEAN." RENNER

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